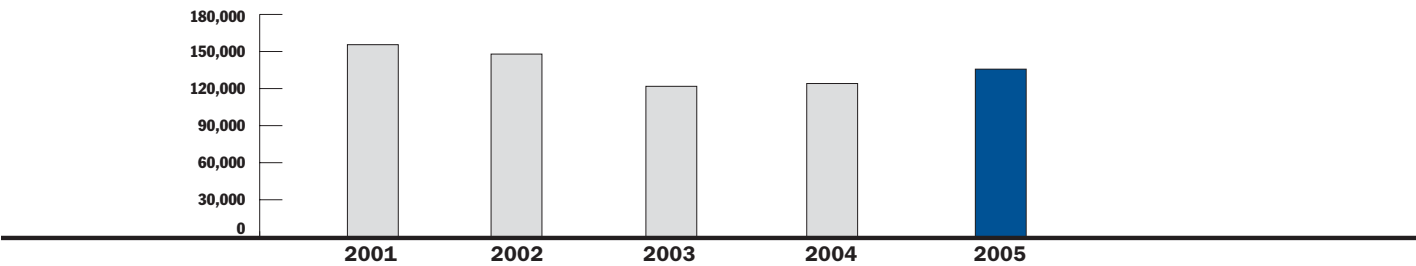


# Economic Growth Fuels Congestion Resurgence On Bay Area Freeways

- Traffic congestion during commute hours on Bay Area freeways rose by 9 percent in 2005. This was the second consecutive year in which the daily number of vehicle hours of delay due to congestion increased, following a modest 2 percent bump in 2004 and steady declines in congestion from 2001 through 2003.
- The increase in congestion likely reflects the increased level of economic activity in the Bay Area in 2005. The state Economic Development Department reported that some 26,000 new jobs were created in the nine-county region during 2005.

Daily (Morning and Evening Peak-Period) Freeway Delay by Bay Area County, 2001–2005

	Freeway Miles (2005)	Daily (Weekday) Vehicle Hours of Delay					Percent Change	
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2004–2005	2001–2005
Alameda	138	65,600	61,300	46,300	50,500	52,300	+4%	–20%
Santa Clara	137	37,000	31,600	24,300	22,900	23,900	+4%	–35%
Contra Costa	87	18,800	19,400	18,700	18,500	21,600	+17%	+15%
San Francisco	19	8,500	11,400	11,200	8,900	10,700	+20%	+26%
Marin	28	7,900	8,400	6,200	7,400	9,800	+32%	+24%
San Mateo	73	10,900	7,700	7,300	7,800	7,600	–3%	–30%
Sonoma	55	4,400	4,400	5,200	5,300	7,100	+34%	+61%
Solano	79	2,400	3,700	2,600	2,800	2,700	–4%	+13%
Napa	5	0	0	0	0	0	NA	NA
Bay Area	621	155,500	147,900	121,800	124,100	135,700	+9%	–13%



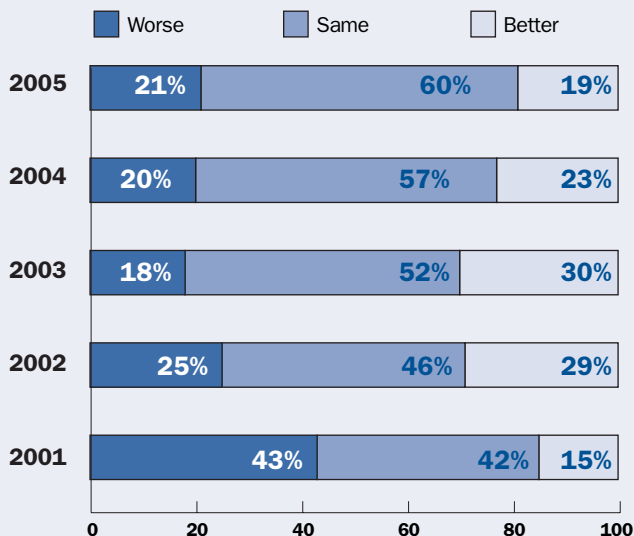
Sources: Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Caltrans District 4

- Regionwide, vehicles typically spent 135,700 hours per weekday in congested conditions (defined as average speeds below 35 miles per hour for 15 minutes or longer) on Bay Area freeways in 2005. While this marks a 9 percent jump over 2004 levels, it is far below the 177,600 hours per day recorded in 2000 at the height of the region's previous technology boom.
- The biggest overall increase in freeway congestion occurred in Contra Costa County, where in 2005 daily vehicle hours of delay grew by just over 3,000, to 21,600 hours each day. The biggest percentage increases came in Sonoma County, where daily vehicle hours of delay jumped by more than a third (to 7,100 in 2005 from 5,300 the year before) and Marin County, which showed a 32 percent surge in congestion in 2005. Smaller percentage increases were recorded in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties.
- Congestion declined slightly in 2005 in San Mateo and Solano counties, where vehicle hours of delay dropped 3 percent and 4 percent respectively from 2004 levels.

### Top 10 Bay Area Congestion Hot Spots

- The morning approach to the Bay Bridge on Interstate 80 remained the region's most notorious congestion location in 2005, with the average daily vehicle hours of delay up 8 percent to 10,930 from 10,080 in 2004 (see page 10). Three of the Bay Area's 10 worst congestion locations involve the Bay Bridge, including the morning approach on Interstate 80 (a segment that also carries traffic headed toward eastbound Interstate 580 and southbound Interstate 880), the eastbound afternoon commute across the span (number 10) and the afternoon approach on eastbound Interstate 80 and northbound U.S. 101 in San Francisco (number 4).
- Interstate 580 in Alameda County is another corridor with multiple high-congestion segments. The afternoon drive from the Interstate 680 interchange eastbound past El Charro Road ranked second on the Bay Area conges-

**Commuter Perceptions: Percent of Commuters Who Say Their Commute Is Better or Worse Than Last Year**



Source: MTC Regional Rideshare Program

**Freeway Congestion (continued)**

tion list for 2005, and the morning drive westbound from North Flynn Road at the top of the Altamont Pass to Airway Boulevard in Livermore came in at number 3. These routes swapped positions from the 2004 list.

- The only newcomer to the Top 10 list for 2005 is the eastbound afternoon commute along State Route 4 from Bailey Road in Pittsburg to the A Street/Lone Tree Way exit in Antioch (number 8). The westbound morning commute along State Route 4 from A Street/Lone Tree Way to west of Loveridge Road retained its position as the sixth-worst congestion hot spot in the Bay Area.

**Bay Area Freeway Locations With Most Delay During Commute Hours, 2005**







2005 Rank	Location	2005 Daily (Weekday) Vehicle Hours of Delay	2004 Rank	2003 Rank	2002 Rank	2001 Rank
1	<b>Interstate 80, westbound, a.m.</b> — Alameda/Contra Costa County <i>State Route 4 to Bay Bridge metering lights</i>	10,930	1	1	1	1
2	<b>Interstate 580, eastbound, p.m.</b> — Alameda County <i>Interstate 680 to east of El Charro Road</i>	6,100	3	3	3	4
3	<b>Interstate 580, westbound, a.m.</b> — Alameda County <i>West of North Flynn Road to Airway Boulevard</i>	5,830	2	3	5	12
4	<b>U.S. 101, northbound and Interstate 80, eastbound, p.m.</b> — San Francisco <i>U.S. 101 from Alemany Boulevard to I-80; I-80 from U.S. 101 to Sterling Street on-ramp</i>	5,140	4	2	4	8
5	<b>U.S. 101, southbound, a.m.</b> — Marin County <i>South of Route 37 to Interstate 580</i>	4,490	7	6	9	7
6	<b>Route 4, westbound, a.m.</b> — Contra Costa County <i>A Street/Lone Tree Way to west of Loveridge Road</i>	4,000	6	5	7	15
7	<b>Route 92, eastbound, p.m.</b> — Alameda County <i>Clawiter Road to Interstate 880 interchange</i>	3,880	5	15	35	11
8	<b>Route 4 eastbound, p.m.</b> — Contra Costa County <i>West of Bailey Road to A Street/Lone Tree Way</i>	3,780	13	17	20	19
9	<b>U.S. 101, northbound, p.m.</b> — Marin County <i>North of Marin City to Central San Rafael</i>	3,690	8	20	16	22
10	<b>Interstate 80, eastbound, p.m.</b> — San Francisco and Alameda counties <i>Yerba Buena Island to Emeryville</i>	3,120	10	18	37	34

Sources: Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Caltrans District 4

Rankings are for routes in which continuous stop-and-go conditions occur with few, if any, breaks in the queue. Thus, corridors that have equally severe delays, but where congestion is broken into several segments, may rank lower in this type of congestion listing.

# Gridlock's Top 10, 2005

**Ten Most Congested Locations in 2005**

-  Congested segment with direction of travel
-  Rank of segment in top 10 congested locations (1 is most congested)
-  Urbanized Area
-  Freeway
-  Highway
-  Road

SOURCES: Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Caltrans District 4



0 10 20 30 Miles

0 10 20 30 Kilometers

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MTC Graphics/pb — 6/2006

